

(Washington, DC) – Today, Congressman Tim Ryan (OH-17) met with David T. Vandewater, CEO and President of Ardent Health Services, a Tennessee-based hospital group that is considering the purchase of Forum Health, currently in Chapter 11 reorganization bankruptcy. The Congressman reaffirmed his office's unconditional assistance to Forum Health and its employees with regard to both short- and long-term solutions for the sustainability of the regional health system.

**“Today’s meeting went very well,” stated Congressman Ryan. “I made it clear that I hoped all parties could reach a mutually-beneficial agreement as soon as possible – and that everyone in the Mahoning Valley has a stake in Forum’s future. □ After my conversation with Mr. Vandewater, I reached out to union officials representing Forum’s employees to reiterate my support for the workers and stress the importance for a speedy resolution so we can move past this difficult chapter in Forum’s history.”**

The Congressman then added, **“This is a matter appropriately before the Bankruptcy Court, and the Court will have final say, but I will continue to look for every opportunity to bring resolution to this matter. □ There is no doubt that the process will be difficult, but now is the time to act.□ By securing several thousand jobs and potentially adding new tax revenue at a time when cities and school districts are laying off so many police, firefighters, and teachers, our community is presented with an opportunity to rebuild an improved hospital system that will reflect the talent, skill, and work ethic of its employees. □ If we are to lock in the many great successes we’ve had in the Mahoning Valley recently – V&M, GM, VXi, and so many others – it is critical that we find a solution to preserve Forum’s economic benefit and health care services.”**

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